

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 49

March 30, 2000, 5:47 p.m.
Page S-1965 Temp. Record

LOCAL TELEVISION ACT (LOAN GUARANTEE)/Lending Practices

SUBJECT: Launching Our Communities' Access to Local (LOCAL) Television Act of 2000 . . . S. 2097. Johnson amendment No. 2903.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 99-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 2097, the Launching Our Communities' Access to Local (LOCAL) Television Act of 2000, will establish a \$1.25 billion loan guarantee program to facilitate access, in a technologically neutral manner, to local television broadcast signals in unserved and underserved areas. The bill will guarantee up to 80 percent of a loan that will be used to provide local television signals outside of the 40 most populated media market areas.

The Johnson amendment would expand the range of universal qualified lenders to allow rural cooperative lending entities to lend rural communities funds to build satellite facilities.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The purpose of the LOCAL Television Act is to provide local television broadcasts at the least possible cost to those people who live in unserved and underserved areas, namely, people in rural communities. That purpose will be achieved by making reasonable loans available to those communities for building broadcast facilities. Rural communities need to build their own facilities because commercial satellite broadcasters have made it clear that they do not believe it is worth their time or money to build them. This bill, as drafted, will give guarantees for broadcast construction loans given through commercial banks, but not through rural cooperatives. The Johnson amendment would add that rural cooperatives could also give guaranteed loans. This change would help rural communities because cooperatives tend to charge lower interest rates than commercial banks, and they have a 60-year history of responsibly promoting economic development throughout rural America. The underlying legislation would be greatly improved by adding rural cooperatives to the pool of qualified lenders. We urge our colleagues to assist both the financial situations and the communications access of our rural communities by supporting this amendment.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.

YEAS (99)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (55 or 100%)		Democrats (44 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Akaka	Kennedy				Boxer ²
Allard	Hutchison	Baucus	Kerrey				
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Bayh	Kerry				
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Kohl				
Bond	Kyl	Bingaman	Landrieu				
Brownback	Lott	Breaux	Lautenberg				
Bunning	Lugar	Bryan	Leahy				
Burns	Mack	Byrd	Levin				
Campbell	McCain	Cleland	Lieberman				
Chafee	McConnell	Conrad	Lincoln				
Cochran	Murkowski	Daschle	Mikulski				
Collins	Nickles	Dodd	Moynihan				
Coverdell	Roberts	Dorgan	Murray				
Craig	Roth	Durbin	Reed				
Crapo	Santorum	Edwards	Reid				
DeWine	Sessions	Feingold	Robb				
Domenici	Shelby	Feinstein	Rockefeller				
Enzi	Smith, Bob	Graham	Sarbanes				
Fitzgerald	Smith, Gordon	Harkin	Schumer				
Frist	Snowe	Hollings	Torricelli				
Gorton	Specter	Inouye	Wellstone				
Gramm	Stevens	Johnson	Wyden				
Grams	Thomas						
Grassley	Thompson						
Gregg	Thurmond						
Hagel	Voinovich						
Hatch	Warner						
Helms							

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay